



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 18, 2007

### **S. 381**

#### **Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs on June 13, 2007*

S. 381 would establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent to investigate and determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948.

Under S. 381, nine commission members—three appointed by the President, three appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representative, and three appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate—would have one year to report to the Congress on its findings, recommendations, and possible remedies. Commission members who are not federal employees would be compensated for their services. In addition, all commission members would be reimbursed for travel expenses. Under the bill, the commission could hire staff or use personnel detailed from other federal agencies. The commission would terminate 90 days after submitting its final report.

Based on the costs of similar commissions, CBO estimates that the commission would spend about \$500,000 over the 2008-2009 period subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. The legislation does not authorize any payment of restitution; such authority would require a separate act of the Congress.

S. 381 would impose both intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because it would establish a commission with the authority to subpoena information. State, local, and tribal governments, as well as private-sector entities, if subpoenaed by the commission, would be required to provide testimony, documents, or other evidence. CBO expects that the commission would likely exercise this authority sparingly and that the costs to comply with a subpoena would not be significant. Thus, CBO estimates that the costs to those governments and private-sector entities would be small and well below the annual thresholds established in UMRA (\$66 million for

intergovernmental mandates and \$131 million for private-sector mandates in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation). Furthermore, S. 381 would direct the commission to pay a per diem and mileage allowance to any witness who appears before the commission from funds available to pay the expenses of the commission.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs), Elizabeth Cove (for state and local impact), and Jacob Kuipers (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.